(b) if so, what are the details of the proposals?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Commissioning of a nation-wise computer network in the country

293. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways plan to commission a nation-wide computer network to handle the movement of freight in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when it is likely to be implemented in the Railway Zones?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) The Ministry of Railways have plan to commission a nation-wide computerbased Freight Operation Information System.

(b) The System will consist of a central system and a number of zonal systems. The software for the central system has been obtained from Canadian Nation Railways, Canada and is being modified by Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS) for the use on Inidan Railways. The software for the zonal systems is being developed by CRIS. The central system will handle modules relating to wagon and locomotive movement and scheduling and routing of traffic. The Zonal Systems will handle modules relating to yard management, local area management, maintenance of wagons and locomotives, fuel management and invoicing and billing. This is expected to lead to better planning and monitoring of utilisation of wagon and locomotives.

(c) The system is being implemented on the Northern Railway at a cost of about Rs. 267 crores. On successful completion of the work, its extension to other zonal Railways will be considered.

Setting up of Budget Hotels

294. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Railways is planning to set up budget hotels with private sector participation in 100 places all over the country;

(b) if so, whether the plans drawn by the Ministry of Railways, the hotels will be set up at places of tourist interest esstntial to cater to the needs of the domestic and international tourists;

(c) if so, whether the modalities with regard to management of the proposed hotels have been worked out; and

(d) if so, how many districts in Madhya Pradesh will be covered for setting up these budget hotels?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The project is in a conceptual stage.

Running of Ujjaini-Dehradun Express Train

295. SHRI RAMNATH KOVIND: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to rup the Ujjaini Dehradun fast express train 4 days a week in order to cope with the heavy rush on this route;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any scope to reduce the total time taken by this

train by 3 hours to cover the distance; and

(d) if not, what are the main hurdles in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Due to operational and resource constraints.

(c) and (d) Reduction in the journey time by 3 hours is not feasible at present due to operational exigencies.

Conversion of Railway lines in Rajasthan

296. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has so far been made with regard to (1) Conversion of Pipase Road-Bilara M.G. Line into B. G. line, and (ii) Conversion of Merta City M. G. Line into B. G. Line and New-B. G. Lines from (i) Kolayat to Phalodi; (ii) Single Track from Jaisalmer-Hamira to Sanu Mines Area and (iii) New B. G. Line from Bhiwadi to link it Jaipur-Delhi-Ahmedabad B. G. Line; and

(b) whether State Government of Rajasthan has requested the Railway Board to expedite conversion of above M. G. Line to B. G. Line, if so, the time likely to be taken therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) The progress achieved so far for each of the item is

(i) General Manager, Northern Railway has just submitted a study report regarding conversion of Pipar Road-Bilara.

(ii) Conversion of Merta-City MG line into BG has been completed.

(iii) Traffic survey for Kolayat-Phlodi has been taken up.

(iv) Due to constraint of resources new line from Jaisalmer-Hamira to Sanu cannot be considered at present.

(v) There is at present no proposal to link Bhiwadi with Jaipur-Delhi-Ahmedabad.

(b) No, Sir.

Procurement of Railway Wagons

297. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the current financial year 1994-95 target of procurement of railway wagons and how much order has been placed; what are the names of unit with whom order has been placed quantity wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that many wagon fabricating units in West Bengal are facing closure due to non or inadequate placement of wagon order by the Railways; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Ministry of Railways has inducted two more units at Madras to make the situation worse in the wagon industry, if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Target for procurement of wagons for 1994-95 as budgeted is 18000 four wheelers. However, as traffic offerings to the Railways have not been picking up as per projections, and asset utilisation has improved, the requirement has reduced.